

**Governing Iowa's public  
universities and special schools**

University of Iowa  
Iowa State University  
University of Northern Iowa  
Iowa School for the Deaf  
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School  
Lakeside Laboratory  
Quad-Cities Graduate Center  
Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center  
Tri-State Graduate Center



Michael G. Gartner, President, *Des Moines*  
Robert N. Downer, Pro Tem, *Iowa City*  
Amir I. Arbisser, M.D., *Davenport*  
Mary Ellen Becker, Ph.D., *Oskaloosa*  
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November 17, 2005

Mr. Michael E. Marshall  
Secretary of the Senate  
Second Floor, State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Ms. Margaret A. Thomson  
Chief Clerk of the House  
Second Floor, State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Mr. Marshall and Ms. Thomson:

In response to HF 868, which directed the Board of Regents "to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a graduate school in western Iowa in cooperation with other public or private institutions of higher learning and to submit a report to the general assembly and the governor regarding the findings and recommendations of the study by December 15, 2005," the results of the feasibility study are hereby submitted to the General Assembly.

Under the direction of the Council of Provosts, a study team reviewed the graduate offerings provided by the Regent universities through the Tri-State Graduate Center in Sioux City and the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center in Council Bluffs and assessed unmet educational needs in western Iowa. Currently, the Regent universities provide extensive offerings at all levels, including certificate, baccalaureate, endorsement, and graduate programs through the two centers. Program offerings are available through a variety of media, including the ICN, through Iowa Public Television, guided independent study, face-to-face, and through the web.

Using the results of numerous surveys conducted by the Regent universities in western Iowa, study team concluded that the most feasible way to provide sustainable graduate programs in western Iowa is through the existing centers in Council Bluffs and Sioux City. The programs delivered through the centers can be expanded to address specific unmet needs for graduate education as those needs arise. A new center in western Iowa would be cost-prohibitive and would likely not expand the level of offerings currently available.

If there are any questions concerning this report, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Steinke

Enclosure

cc: Legislative Log  
Legislative Liaisons  
dg/h/aa/gws/western IA-leg.doc